



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

Kevin D. Abernathy, 25, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to the charge contained in a May 17, 2005, federal indictment.

Abernathy admitted that he participated in a scheme to defraud Kansas City financial institutions by distributing counterfeit checks printed by a co-conspirator who used a personal computer and digital scanner to create the counterfeits. **Abernathy** agreed to cash some of the counterfeit checks, Graves said, with the understanding that he would keep \$200 as his share of the proceeds of any checks successfully passed. **Abernathy** admitted that he cashed three counterfeit checks, purporting to be drawn on the Greater KC Link, Inc., account, on Feb. 18, 2003, at United Missouri Bank offices in Kansas City and Raytown for a total of \$1,880.

Under federal statutes, **Abernathy** could be subject to a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the U.S. Secret Service, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow